



U. S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

PRESS RELEASE

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“FIREARM AND AMMUNITION GET FELON NEARLY 22 YEARS”

Spokane – Today, James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that Matthew R. Descamps, age 50, of Colville, Washington was sentenced to 262 months in prison for possessing a firearm and ammunition.

On March 25, 2005, officers from the Colville Police Department and the Stevens County Sheriff’s Office responded to a reported assault and shooting on Oren-Rice Road in Stevens County. Descamps shot into the radiator of a truck of a person Descamps had an argument with, using a .32 caliber S&W revolver. Descamps was arrested and has been in custody ever since. After a jury trial, Descamps was found guilty on September 13, 2007.

As a previously convicted felon, Descamps is prohibited from possessing any firearm or ammunition. Descamps has felony convictions for first degree robbery, second degree burglary and felony harassment, qualifying him for the penalties of the Armed Career Criminal statute. Accordingly, he faced not less than 15 years and up to life in prison for possessing the firearm or ammunition.

James A. McDevitt, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, said, “It is a pleasure to work with law enforcement officers and agencies that cooperate so well in the mutual pursuit of armed repeat offenders such as Mr. Descamps. The public is well served by such collaborative partnerships as evidenced by this case.”

This case was prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a partnership of federal, state and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors working together to reduce criminal gun violence in Eastern Washington through aggressive enforcement of existing firearms laws. PSN focuses on the most dangerous criminals who are believed to possess illegal firearms and who create the most risk to the community.

The investigation was conducted by the Colville Police Department, the Stevens County Sheriff’s Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Stephanie Whitaker, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington.